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LULING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.
GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 1999

Under provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of the report has been submitted to the entity and certain government officials. The report is available for public inspection at the Baton Rouge office of the Department of State, or, where appropriate, at the office of the parish clerk of court.

Release Date JUL 26 2000

Ericksen, Krentel, Canton & LaPorte, L.L.P.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS & CONSULTANTS
4227 Canal Street New Orleans, Louisiana 70119-5996

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Ericksen, Krentel, Canton & LaPorte, L.L.P.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Luling Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
67 St. Anthony Street
Luling, Louisiana 70070

We have audited the accompanying general purpose financial statements of the Luling Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. as of and for the year ended December 31, 1999, as listed in the table of contents. These general purpose financial statements are the responsibility of the Luling Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.'s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these general purpose financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide* and *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the general purpose financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall general purpose financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the general purpose financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Luling Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. as of December 31, 1999, and the results of its operations for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 31, 2000 on our consideration of the Luling Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.'s internal controls over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws and regulations.

May 31, 2000


Certified Public Accountants

LULING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

COMBINED BALANCE SHEET

ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUPS

DECEMBER 31, 1999

ASSETS AND PROVISIONS

	Governmental	Account		Totals	
	Fund Type	Group		(Memorandum Only)	
	General	General	Long-term	1999	1998
	Fund	Fixed Assets	Debt		
Cash	\$ 664,186	-	-	\$ 664,186	\$ 417,403
Due from Parish (Note 3)	11,072	-	-	11,072	16,652
Prepaid expenses	23,642	-	-	23,642	19,675
Fire protection vehicles	-	1,089,170	-	1,089,170	1,089,170
Equipment	-	426,540	-	426,540	406,756
Buildings	-	1,309,941	-	1,309,941	921,751
Construction in progress	-	-	-	-	74,557
Land	-	38,700	-	38,700	37,300
Debt retirement provision	-	-	274,984	274,984	-
Total assets and provision	<u>\$ 698,900</u>	<u>\$ 2,864,351</u>	<u>\$ 274,984</u>	<u>\$ 3,838,235</u>	<u>\$ 2,983,264</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY**LIABILITIES:**

Accounts payable	\$ 6,800	-	-	\$ 6,800	\$ 7,209
Notes payable	-	-	274,984	274,984	-
Total liabilities	<u>6,800</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>274,984</u>	<u>281,784</u>	<u>7,209</u>

FUND EQUITY:

Fixed asset investment	-	2,864,351	-	2,864,351	2,529,534
Fund balance - reserved for prepaid expenses	23,642	-	-	23,642	19,675
Fund balance - reserved for encumbrances	-	-	-	-	47,284
Fund balance - unreserved, undesignated	<u>668,458</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>668,458</u>	<u>379,562</u>
Total fund equity	<u>692,100</u>	<u>2,864,351</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,556,451</u>	<u>2,976,055</u>
Total liabilities and fund equity	<u>\$ 698,900</u>	<u>\$ 2,864,351</u>	<u>\$ 274,984</u>	<u>\$ 3,838,235</u>	<u>\$ 2,983,264</u>

See accompanying NOTES TO GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

LULING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.
COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999

	<u>1999</u>	<u>Totals (Memorandum Only) 1998</u>
<u>REVENUES:</u>		
Sales tax - 1/8 cent	\$ 301,540	\$ 334,407
Operations and capital improvements millage	104,750	104,456
Fire insurance rebate	30,624	28,235
Other revenues	26,052	16,317
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total revenues	462,966	483,415
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>EXPENDITURES:</u>		
Utilities:		
Electricity, water and gas	13,046	14,186
Telephone	3,560	2,879
Equipment:		
Maintenance	22,392	25,330
Fuel	2,260	2,171
Insurance	7,498	6,106
Buildings:		
Maintenance	7,851	1,643
Insurance	10,311	12,376
Personnel:		
Insurance	6,660	6,570
Training	8,519	9,893
Firefighting expenditures:		
Fire supplies	21,599	9,793
Emergency system access	20,000	-
Miscellaneous:		
Accounting and auditing	3,000	2,400
Legal fees	3,313	-
Office supplies	3,200	1,198
Meetings and other	13,948	13,010
Account group activity:		
Equipment purchases and building additions	341,631	554,963
Debt retirement	25,016	-
Interest expense	8,951	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenditures	522,755	662,518
	<hr/>	<hr/>
(Deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(59,789)	(179,103)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES:</u>		
Proceeds from debt incurred	300,000	-
Proceeds from insurance claim	5,368	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total other financing sources	305,368	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures	245,579	(179,103)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
FUND BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	446,521	625,624
	<hr/>	<hr/>
FUND BALANCE, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 692,100</u>	<u>\$ 446,521</u>

See accompanying NOTES TO GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

LULING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.
NOTES TO GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 1999

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Reporting Entity

The Luling Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. (Fire Department) receives funding from local and state government sources and must comply with the concomitant requirements of these funding source entities. However, the Fire Department is a "primary government" and is not included as a component unit of any other St. Charles Parish governmental "reporting entity" as defined in GASB pronouncements, since the entity is a non-profit corporation, and the board members have decision making authority, the power to designate management, the ability to significantly influence operations and primary accountability for fiscal matters. The Fire Department includes all activities that are controlled by it as a quasi-public non-profit corporation organized to provide fire protection to the Parish of St. Charles. The Fire Department has no component units.

The accounting and reporting policies of the Fire Department conform to generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governmental units.

Fund Accounting

The accounts of the Fire Department are organized on the basis of a fund (General Fund) and account groups, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The operations of the General Fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprises its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues and expenditures.

Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures are recognized and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied.

The Fire Department records are maintained on a cash basis of accounting. However, the General Fund reported in the accompanying financial statements has been converted to a modified accrual basis of accounting utilizing the following practices in recording revenues and expenditures:

Revenues

Sales taxes are recorded in the month the taxes are collected by the St. Charles Parish School Board. Sales taxes become payable to the St. Charles Parish School Board on the first day of the month and become delinquent on the 20th day of the month following incurrence of the taxes by businesses.

LULING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.
NOTES TO GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
DECEMBER 31, 1999

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Revenues (Continued)

A ten year ad valorem tax issue was dedicated to the operations of the Fire Departments beginning in 1991. Each department is to receive one ninth of annual collections. Taxes levied in November each year are available for expenditures in the subsequent year.

Interest income on investments is recorded when the investments have matured and income is available.

All other revenues are recorded when received.

The majority of the Fire Department's revenues are derived from the one-eighth of one percent sales tax and the ad valorem tax for operations.

Expenditures

Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on general long-term debt which is not recognized until due.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Fire Department is authorized under state law to deposit funds within a fiscal agent bank organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana, the laws of any other state in the Union, and the laws of the United States. The Fire Department may also invest in time certificates of deposit with state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having their principal offices in Louisiana. Under state law, these deposits must be secured by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of such pledged securities and federal deposit insurance must equal or exceed the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent. At December 31, 1999, the carrying amount of the Fire Department's deposits was \$664,186 and the bank balance was \$687,091, classified as follows:

<i>Federally insured</i>	\$ 267,365
<i>Collateralized</i>	419,726
<i>Uninsured and uncollateralized</i>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 687,091</u>

Prepaid Items

Payments made to vendors for services that will benefit periods beyond December 31, 1999, are recorded as prepaid items. A portion of the general fund's fund balance equal to the prepaid items has been reserved to indicate that it is not available for appropriation.

LULING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.
NOTES TO GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
DECEMBER 31, 1999

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

The Fire Department was not required to prepare a budget for the year ended December 31, 1999.

Encumbrance Accounting

Encumbrance accounting, under which purchase orders, contracts and other commitments for the expenditure of monies are recorded in order to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation, is used in governmental funds.

Fixed Assets and Long-Term Debt

Fixed assets used in governmental fund type operations are accounted for in the general fixed assets account group, rather than in the General Fund. No depreciation has been provided on fixed assets. Fixed assets are valued at historical cost.

Long-term liabilities expected to be financed from the General Fund are accounted for in the general long-term debt account group.

The two account groups are not "funds". They are concerned only with the measurement of financial position and do not involve measurement of results of operations.

Total Columns of Combined Balance Sheet

Total columns on the combined balance sheet are captioned "memorandum only" to indicate that they are presented only to facilitate financial analysis. Data in these columns do not present financial position, results of operations, or changes in financial position in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Nor is such data comparable to a consolidation. Interfund eliminations have not been made in the aggregation of this data.

Comparative Data

Comparative totals for the prior year have been presented in the accompanying financial statements in order to provide an understanding of changes in the Fire Department's financial position and operations. However, presentation of prior year totals by fund type have not been presented in each of the statements since their inclusion would make the statements unduly complex and difficult to read.

LULING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.
NOTES TO GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
DECEMBER 31, 1999

(2) SALES TAX REVENUE

Effective March 1, 1980, sales tax in the amount of one-eighth of one percent is collected by the St. Charles Parish School Board and administered by the Parish President. The sales tax is to be used for fire protection of the Parish of St. Charles. The funds are distributed monthly by the Parish President to the individual fire departments of the St. Charles Parish Firemen's Association, Inc. Effective September, 1994, the sales tax is distributed on the following basis:

	<u>Monthly Basis</u>	<u>Percent of Remaining Funds</u>
Bayou Gauche Volunteer Fire Dept., Inc.	\$ 2,500	3.21%
Des Allemands Volunteer Fire Dept., Inc.	\$ 2,500	4.83%
East Side St. Charles Volunteer Fire Dept., Inc.	\$ 2,500	23.57%
Hahnville Volunteer Fire Dept., Inc.	\$ 2,500	5.92%
Killona Volunteer Fire Dept., Inc.	\$ 2,500	1.56%
Luling Volunteer Fire Dept., Inc.	\$ 2,500	29.00%
Norco Area Volunteer Fire Dept., Inc.	\$ 2,500	10.51%
Paradis Volunteer Fire Dept., Inc.	\$ 2,500	4.20%
St. Rose Volunteer Fire Dept., Inc.	\$ 2,500	17.20%

(3) DUE FROM PARISH

Revenue receivable at December 31, 1999, consists of the Fire Department's share of the 1/8th cent sales tax for the month of November 1999, collected on or before December 20, 1999, by the St. Charles Parish School Board and remitted by St. Charles Parish in January 2000.

An allowance for uncollectible receivables is not recorded by the Fire Department because it considers all receivables collectible at December 31, 1999.

(4) CHANGES IN GENERAL FIXED ASSETS

	<u>Balance 1/1/99</u>	<u>Purchases 1999</u>	<u>Retirements 1999</u>	<u>Reclassifications 1999</u>	<u>Balance 12/31/99</u>
Fire protection vehicles	\$1,089,170	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$1,089,170
Equipment	406,756	24,286	4,502	-	426,540
Buildings	921,751	315,945	2,312	74,557	1,309,941
Construction in progress	74,557	-	-	(74,557)	-
Land	37,300	1,400	-	-	38,700
	<u>\$2,529,534</u>	<u>\$ 341,631</u>	<u>\$ 6,814</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$2,864,351</u>

LULING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.
NOTES TO GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
DECEMBER 31, 1999

(5) GENERAL LONG-TERM DEBT

The following is a summary of changes in general long-term debt during the year ended December 31, 1999:

Long-term debt, beginning of period	\$ -
Increases	300,000
Reductions	<u>(25,016)</u>
Long-term debt, end of period	<u>\$ 274,984</u>

The annual requirements to amortize debt outstanding as of December 31, 1999 are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	
2000	\$ 62,455
2001	65,572
2002	68,844
2003	72,280
2004	<u>5,833</u>
	<u>\$ 274,984</u>

Details of long-term debt are as follows:

Note payable to First National Bank of St. Charles Parish collateralized by the fire station on St. Anthony Street, bearing an interest rate of 4.88%, payable in monthly installments of \$6,207.44. Due January 28, 2004.

\$ 274,984

(6) RISK MANAGEMENT

The Fire Department is exposed to various risks of losses related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; injuries to firemen; and natural disasters. The Fire Department carries commercial insurance in amounts sufficient to insure itself against claims resulting from any of those risks.

LULING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.
NOTES TO GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
DECEMBER 31, 1999

(7) COMMITMENTS

During 1999, the Fire Department entered into an agreement with the St. Charles Parish Law Enforcement District where it would pay for access to an 800 MHz radio communications system throughout the Parish. The Fire Department paid an initial fee of \$20,000 for access to the system and is obligated for its share of future maintenance costs on the system. Future costs have not been determined but are not expected to be material to the financial statements because the total maintenance costs will be allocated among all Parish agencies utilizing the system. Additionally, an ad valorem referendum in July of 2000, if successful, will provide operating revenues sufficient enough to eliminate the maintenance fee requirement.

(8) CONTINGENCIES

During 1999, the Fire Department consulted an attorney to represent them regarding the construction of the St. Anthony Street fire station. The contractor, the Fire Department's architects and the Fire Department are in dispute over the performance of the general contractor and the quality of construction of the fire station. This also involves a question of whether the Fire Department's architects have any responsibility for the contractor's work product and whether the architects have additional responsibility for the manner, quality and timeliness of the work performed. The questions and issues arising from the construction of the new fire station are being discussed among the contractor, the architect and the Fire Department in an attempt to reach a resolution short of litigation.

Ericksen, Krentel, Canton & LaPorte, L.L.P.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Luling Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
67 St. Anthony Street
Luling, Louisiana 70070

We have audited the general purpose financial statements of Luling Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., as of and for the year ended December 31, 1999, and have issued our report thereon dated May 31, 2000. We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Luling Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.'s general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered Luling Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the general purpose financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. However, we noted a certain matter involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be a reportable condition. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over financial reporting that, in our judgment, could adversely affect Luling Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.'s ability to record, process, summarize and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the general purpose financial statements. The reportable condition is described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as item 1999-1.

Luling Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
May 31, 2000
Page 2

A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the general purpose financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, we believe none of the reportable conditions described above is a material weakness.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of Luling Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., St. Charles Parish and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

May 31, 2000


Certified Public Accountants

LULING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999

We have audited the financial statements of Luling Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. as of and for the year ended December 31, 1999, and have issued our report thereon dated May 31, 2000. We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our audit of the financial statements as of December 31, 1999 resulted in an unqualified opinion.

SECTION I SUMMARY OF AUDITORS' REPORTS

a. Report on Internal Control and Compliance Material to the Financial Statements

Internal Control

Material Weaknesses ___ Yes X No

Reportable Conditions X Yes ___ No

Compliance

Compliance Material to Financial Statements ___ Yes X No

b. Federal Awards **Not Applicable**

Internal Control

Material Weaknesses ___ Yes ___ No

Reportable Conditions ___ Yes ___ No

Type of Opinion on Compliance Unqualified ___ Qualified ___
for Major Programs Disclaimer ___ Adverse ___

Are their findings required to be reported in accordance with Circular A-133, Section .510(a)?

___ Yes ___ No

c. Identification of Major Programs: **Not Applicable**

CFDA Number(s) Name of Federal Program (or Cluster)

LULING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999

Dollar threshold used to distinguish Type A and Type B Programs \$ _____

Is the auditee a 'low-risk' auditee, as defined by OMB Circular A-133?

Yes No **Not Applicable**

SECTION II FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

1999-1 Segregation of Duties

Criteria: Safeguarding of assets requires adequate segregation of duties. No one person should have access to both physical assets and the related accounting records or to all phases of a transaction.

Condition: Our evaluation of the internal control structure revealed an absence of appropriate segregation of duties consistent with appropriate control objectives regarding cash receipts and disbursements.

Effect: Intentional or unintentional errors could be made and not be detected.

Cause: The Department is small and therefore it is not feasible to maintain an adequate segregation of duties among accounting personnel. All personnel are volunteers.

Recommendation: The Board of Directors should remain involved in the day-to-day financial affairs of the Department to provide oversight and independent review functions. The bookkeeper should not be an authorized check signer and should not have access to cash receipts. Instead, someone independent of the bookkeeper should prepare a list of checks received and should make bank deposits. The list would be given to the bookkeeper for general ledger recording.

Management's Response: Management agrees with the recommendation; however, they feel that because of the small number of personnel in the Department it is not possible to remove the bookkeeper from the depositing and check signing responsibilities. The Board of Directors, however, will continue to monitor and review all financial transactions of the Department.

LULING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.
SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999

**SECTION I INTERNAL CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE MATERIAL TO THE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

1998-1 Segregation of Duties

Our evaluation of the internal control structure revealed an absence of appropriate segregation of duties consistent with appropriate control objectives relative to cash receipts and disbursements.

The Department is small, and it was determined not to be feasible to maintain adequate segregation of duties. This issue remains unresolved.

**SECTION II INTERNAL CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE MATERIAL TO
FEDERAL AWARDS**

Not Applicable

SECTION III MANAGEMENT LETTER

Not Applicable